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Message from the Mayor

It's time to gear up for our fourth citywide "Citizen Summit." The summit began as a little idea, but since 1999 it has grown into America's largest ongoing town hall meeting. However, the Citizen Summit is much more than a town hall meeting – it's a chance for residents across the Nation's Capital to help shape our city's future.

Last week, I announced that Citizen Summit IV – "Lifting All Communities" – will take place on Saturday, November 19, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center. For the fourth time, I will convene citizens, elected officials and community leaders to begin making the tough choices involved in determining citywide policies and priorities. We'll focus on vital subjects like youth development, health care, employment, economic opportunity, and affordable housing.

Over the past six years, we've engaged more than 10,000 citizens in this unique planning process run by our Office of Neighborhood Action. The summit can significantly influence decisions with respect to our annual spending priorities and legislative initiatives.

The Citizen Summit is the public's opportunity to help form a vision for the District of Columbia.

During the summit, residents and government officials engage in extensive dialogue on critical public issues. That means citizen voices are a key part of shaping the city's future. Our goal at the summit is to conduct an exchange among District officials and residents about our plans for the coming years. For the District government, the summit is a chance to be sure we've heard the public's voice accurately.

Citizen Summits I, II and III accomplished many things in the past few years:

- Created the priorities for the Citywide Strategic Plan;
- In 1999, input from Citizen Summit I persuaded me to add \$70 - \$80 million to the DC Public Schools budget;
- Provided content for the "Strategic Neighborhood Action Plans" (SNAPs);
- Helped define the city's housing policy and the city's voting representation efforts.

Citizen Summit IV will help create a connection and a shared sense of responsibility between government and residents. At the summit, we won't spend all of our time talking about what the government should do. Although there will be much of that, we will also spend time looking at how we see ourselves as citizens and how we can become more fully engaged.

The first three Citizen Summits made a real difference in the District government – and a real difference in your neighborhood. Let's come together again to make real choices. And let's make a difference – again. So please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 19. District residents may call (202) 727-2823 for additional information or visit the [Citizen Summit website](#) which will be updated with more information as it becomes available. Translation and sign-language services will be available at the Summit.



Council Passes Mayor's Disaster Relief Bill

In response to the growing needs that have arisen in our city since nearly 300 evacuees from Louisiana relocated to the DC Armory, last week I sent to the DC Council – and the Council passed by unanimous vote – the "DC Disaster, Relocation and Recovery Assistance Emergency Act of 2005."

The emergency legislation authorizes the Mayor, upon declaration of a state of emergency or disaster, to provide disaster services, relocation and recovery assistance to evacuees or victims of a disaster. The legislation does not affect funding for current services for District-based homeless or low-income individuals and families.

The legislation does the following:

- Permits the District to consider the evacuees as "residents" of the District in order to facilitate immediate access to programs and services available to persons who reside on the District;
- Authorizes the Mayor to expend District funds to provide necessary disaster services, relocation and recovery assistance to eligible resident evacuees, such as travel, meals, lodging, and incidental expenses;
- Permits the District to waive documentation requirements, such as social security card, birth certificate, or photographic identification, which may have been lost or destroyed due to the disaster, and seek third party verification;
- Authorizes an expedited supervisory program level of review and resolution of benefit claims associated with the provision of services; and
- Permits the District, to the extent allowed by law, to waive recovery of overpayment of benefits, particularly in TANF and Food Stamps, whether or not based on error, to avoid hardship to the evacuee.

Some examples of the services that may be provided under this act include: immediate access to federal food stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, health care and other public assistance benefits; facilitating immediate access to prescription drug benefits; and immediate access to education.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, I am proud of the way our city came together to help some of the people who lost everything in the storm. This legislation will make it easier for us to make sure that the basic needs of these evacuees are met. The number of evacuees has dropped to less than 100, but we must ensure that we continue to provide for those who remain.

Our goal is to wind down operations at the DC Armory by mid-October. At the same time, we will continue to ensure that no District residents are affected in any way by the operation of the shelter. Finally, I commend the Council for acting quickly to pass this critical piece of legislation.

Signing of New Bus Shelter Contract

On Monday, I was pleased to sign a new citywide bus shelter contract with ClearChannel Adshel, which has agreed to build close to 800 new shelters within two years in our city's neighborhoods and downtown – and to pay the District more than \$150 million over the next 20 years in exchange for advertising panels on the shelters.

The District has earmarked \$100 million generated from this contract to finance the Great Streets program, which aims to improve and beautify some of our major transportation corridors. So this is a triple win for our city. We get new, clean bus shelters and much needed revenue as well as financing for the Great Streets program that will improve the streetscape and economic vitality of key roadways in the city.

In addition to the shelters themselves, which will be made of vandal and graffiti-resistant materials, ClearChannel Adshel will provide bus maps, real-time bus arrival information in cooperation with WMATA and a computerized bicycle rental program. ClearChannel Adshel will also manage the heritage trail and directional sign programs and give the District \$350,000 in ad credits for local and international DC promotion. Additionally, the company will set up a Web-based maintenance monitoring and reporting system and a 24-hour service line.

The Great Streets program that will be financed by a portion of the bus shelter revenue will improve and beautify some of the grandest corridors in Washington including: Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, H Street and Benning Road, NE, Nannie Helen Burroughs, NE, Georgia Avenue and 7th Street, NW, Minnesota Avenue, NE/SE, and Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue and South Capitol Street. These corridors will be refurbished with new sidewalks, curbs and gutters, street lighting, trees and mass transit improvements that will help uncap the potential in the surrounding communities by attracting neighborhood retail, housing and jobs.

The prototype for these Great Street improvements is the recently completed 8th Street/Barracks Row streetscape in Southeast. Just three years after the expenditure of \$8 million in improvements, the area boasts 34 new retail shops and nine new outdoor cafes. Additionally, most of the existing retail has been able to stay, adapt and thrive.

The District Department of Transportation has negotiated and will administer the bus shelter contract. To evaluate the initial submissions, DDOT convened a 19-member public-private review panel, including representatives of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, Federation of Citizens Associations, Downtown Business Improvement District, Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, DC Vendors Caucus, Capitol Hill Restoration Society and National Capital Planning Commission.

Community input will continue through an advisory committee as well as through meetings in each ward on design, location and installation schedules. ANC representatives will be notified prior to installation. For more information, please visit the [District Department of Transportation](#).



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding
Alerts

Tax Resolution Day

This is a reminder to readers that on Wednesday, October 5, our city's Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR) will host a "Tax Resolution Day" – from noon until 8 p.m. at 941 North Capitol Street, NE. This event is the second for the city's tax agency, and represents a "one-stop-shopping" opportunity for taxpayers who need to address their individual, business and real property tax issues.

The services provided will include:

- Preparation of individual income tax returns;
- Payment of all taxes (preferably in the form of money orders or checks);
- Submission of payment agreements, waiver requests, and offers in compromise;
- Homestead exemption verifications and adjustments;
- Real property assessments;
- Voluntary disclosures; and
- Certified copies of returns.

As an alternative to seeking help from OTR's customer service representatives, taxpayers may ask for assistance from members of the Greater Washington Society of CPAs (GWSCPA), a nonprofit organization of local certified public accountants, before meeting with OTR representatives.

GWSCPA tax experts will provide up to one hour of free advisory assistance to District taxpayers who want to take advantage of OTR's "Tax Resolution Day." GWSCPA members will be available through Monday, October 3. GWSCPA can be reached via email at info@gwscpa.org, on the web at gwscpa.org, or by phone at (202) 204-8014.

For more information about "Tax Resolution Day" or to schedule an appointment for that day, taxpayers should call (202) 727-4TAX. OTR will do its best to accommodate special needs individuals, as well as provide foreign language assistance if indicated when the appointment is scheduled.

Revised Revenue Estimates for the District

Financial times are good in the District of Columbia – and we must harness recent revenue gains by providing for our neediest residents.

Last week District of Columbia Chief Financial Officer Natwar M. Gandhi certified a revised revenue estimate for fiscal years 2005 through 2009. The estimate for fiscal year (FY) 2006, which begins October 1, is \$51.7 million more than the estimate certified in June, bringing the total expected general fund revenues for FY 2006 to \$4.751 billion.

In a letter addressed to Council Chair Linda W. Cropp and myself, Dr. Gandhi credited the additional revenues to stronger than expected growth in individual and corporate income taxes as the District's economy continues to strengthen. Dr. Gandhi also cited additional revenue from interest income as the Federal Reserve continues to boost interest rates.

As Dr. Gandhi has noted, Hurricane Katrina could have effects on the District's revenue picture. Increases in energy costs and inflationary effects of the storm will likely be felt here. Dr. Gandhi also said that there is the possibility some of those effects could be lessened by an increase in conventions and tourism, with New Orleans being temporarily closed to those industries.

I firmly believe that the revised numbers are Exhibit #1 regarding why our city is on the right path. Because of our strong and steady local economy, along with prudent management, the District's most recent budget provides for expansion of services for the city's neediest population, while also providing tax relief to homeowners across the city.

For a copy of the latest revenue estimate, as well as prior issuances, visit the [Revenue Estimates](#) page on our DC.gov site.

District Government Job Fair

One final note: the District's Office of Personnel is hosting a citywide job fair on Wednesday October 5 in Northwest. The first "District Government Job Fair" will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Hilton Washington, at 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW. The District government is looking for the best and the brightest to join our workforce.

If you are looking for a chance to make a difference in the nation's capital, there is a bright future for you as a member of the DC Government team. Representatives from District government agencies will be at the job fair to talk about job opportunities and answer your questions. Please dress professionally, bring your resume, and come prepared to interview!

We will also host seminars and workshops on the following topics:

- How to Become a Paramedic/EMT
- How to Complete the DC2000 Employment Application
- How to Address Ranking Factors
- How to Prepare Your Resume

The Hilton Washington is located ¼ mile north of the Dupont Circle Metro, on the Red Line. For more information, please visit the [Office of Personnel](#).



District Activities



Mayor Williams speaks with James Dyke, Chairman of the UDC Board of Trustees, as Dr. William Pollard, UDC President, looks on. Mayor Williams delivered the keynote address at UDC's convocation.



Mayor Williams signed a new citywide bus shelter contract with ClearChannel Adshel, which agreed to build close to 800 new shelters within two years in the city's neighborhoods and downtown.

Community News

- [Mayor Mourns Death of Lt. Yvette Tate, Leader of Executive Protection Unit](#)
- [Mayor Announces Ten Legislative Priorities](#)
- [Mayor Announces Appointment of Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth, Families and Elders](#)

Upcoming Events

[View All News Releases](#)

10/5	First District Government Job Fair 9 am – 6 pm Washington Hilton 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW
10/5	Tax Resolution Day Noon – 8 pm 941 North Capitol Street, NE
10/15	DMH "Race for Mental Health" 8 am Rock Creek Park 16th and Kennedy Streets, NW
10/22	Household Hazardous Waste/E-Cycling Collection 9 am – 3 pm Carter Barron Amphitheatre parking lot 16th and Kennedy Streets, NW
11/12	Household Hazardous Waste/E-Cycling Collection 9 am – 3 pm Trash Transfer Station 3200 Benning Road, NE

